to the subject of civil service reforms.

Introduction of Right to Information Bill

†3182. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether -Government have received certain suggestions for comprehensive amendment in Right to Information Bill, 2004.

(b) if so, the details of these suggestions and out of these which have been decided to be incorporated in the above Bill; and

(c) by when, Government have decided to get this Bill passed in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Right to Information Bill, 2004, as introducted in the Lok Sabha on 21st December, 2004 and pending therein, was referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination and Report. The Committee has presented its Third Report on this Bill to the Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2005 and laid it on the table of the Lok Sabha the same day. It shall be the endeavour of the Government to get the Bill approved by Parliament at the earliest.

Reduction in age limit for Entering the Government service

3183. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to weed out unsuitable officers and also to reduce the age limit for those entering Government service to 25 from the current 30 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) Surinder Nath Committee on the System of Performance Appraisal, Promotion, Empanelment and Placement for the All India Services and other Groups 'A' Services has recommended that an effective system of screening officers should be put in place so that in-service officers who lack demonstrated competence, or who are unqualified, or of doubtful morale of financial integrity or who are in unacceptably poor health can be screened out. Officers screened out should be informed of the fact and advised that they may, if they wish, avail of a voluntary separation package. As regards reduction in age limit for entering into Government service, the Alagh Committee has recommended maximum entry age to Civil Services at 26 for general candidates while Hota Committee has recommended its reduction to 24 years with existing relaxation for the OBCs and SC/ST candidates. The Government is examining these recommendations. No decision has sofar been taken.

Administrative Reform Commission

3184. SHRI R.K.ANAND:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are set to constitute an Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) with the mandate to review the functioning of civil services in the country;

(b) if so, how it would be different from Surinder Committee, B.N. Yagandhar Panel and Hota Committee; and

(c) when was Hota Committee report submitted and what were its recommendations and whether its recommendations were implemented in toto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to set up an Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administration system. Surinder Nath Committee went into the system of Performance Appraisal, Promotion, Empanelment and Placement for the All India Services and other Group 'A' Services. Yugandhar Committee was set up to review 'In-service training of IAS officers' and the Hota Committee was set up to examine the Civil Services Reforms covering the All India Services and the Organized Group 'A' Central Services.